

Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 201255Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3867

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 12795

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CB

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 12727

B. STATE 227744

1. THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRST REACTIONS TO THE T-28 BOMBING ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND SEEM TO BE FOR THE MOST PART CALMLY MEASURED. THERE HAVE SO FAR BEEN NO RPT NO STUDENT/TEACHER OR OTHER ATTEMPTS TO EXPLOIT THE INCIDENT.

2. IN A RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION THIS MORNING, LON NOL ASSOCIATED THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN WITH A "FISTFUL" OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MANING OF LIBERTY AND HAVE SOLD THEMSELVES TO THE NORTH VIETNAMSES. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE REPUBLIC IS HEADED BY A PRESIDENT WHO WILL BE SUCCEDED BY OTHERS AND THAT HE WILL REMAIN TO LEAD THE NATION TO FINAL VICTORY.

3. WE KNOW OF NO ARRESTS ASIDE FROM THAT OF SOME OF THE FAMILY OF THE PILOT. AN ORDER GROUNDING ALL T-28'S FOR 24 HOURS WAS RESCINDED THIS AFTERNOON.

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4. AIR FORCE COMMANDER BG PENN RANNDAS HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION BUT IT HAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE YET BEEN ACCEPTED. RANNDAS SAID THE MARSHAL TOLD HIM TODAY THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIM TO BE A TRAITOR. THE FANK GENERAL

STAFF HAS RECOMMENDED TO THE MARSHAL THAT, FI RANNDAS RESIGNATION IS ACCEPTED, THE NEXT RANING AIR FORCE OFFICER (FORMER POCHENTONG BASE COMMANDER AND CURRENT DEPUTY FOR OPERATIONS COLONEL PAL SAM OR) SHOULD REPLACE HIM, EN LIEU OF AN ARMY GENERAL AS SOME HAD SUGGESTED.

5. WE LEARNED THIS MORNING THAT LON NOL WAS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING MOVING INTO THE FORMER ROYAL PALACE (NOW A MUSEUM) TO ESCAPE FURTHER ATTACKS OF THIS SORT. HE WAS SEEN LOOKING OVER THE GROUNDS, WHERE FOXHOLES WERE BEING DUG. THIS AFTERNOON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THAPPANA NGINN, WHO IS AMONG THE PRESIDENT'S CLOSEST CONFIDANTS, CALLED US TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO REMAIN IN THE PRESENT COMPOUND WHERE NEW AND SAFER QUARTERS ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED. MEANWHILE WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY UNDER MAP TO IMPROVE CHAMCAR MON SECURITY.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY MENTIONED PARA 2 REF B, WE AGREE THAT KHMER EMBASSY SHOULD LIMIT ITSELF FOR THE MOST PART TO STATEMENT OF FACTS, WHICH WILL WE BELIEVE SHOW ATTACK TO BE AN ISOLATED ACTION ON THE PART OF ONE INDIVIDUAL. THEY MAY ALSO WISH TO QUOTE PRESIDENT'S RADIO MESSAGE (FBIS BANGKOK D200522).
ENDERS

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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